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EST. 1850THE DISPATCH
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SUNDAY, JANUARY 30, 1916.

United States Steel

FEW people fail to realize the significance of the resumption of dividends on common stock by the United States Steel Company. The common stock of the greatest of American industries amounts to \$500,000,000, and the 5 per cent dividend has been suspended for some time past. But the receipts of the corporation for the last quarter reached the sum of \$51,232,788, the largest quarter receipts made by the corporation in the fifteen years of its history. With such resources, the United States Steel felt fully justified in resuming its dividend payments. The incident shows that the country has at last reached a point of widely extended and fast-growing prosperity.

One of the staff of the British Astronomical Society says the canals of Mars are optical illusions. Perhaps they are on a sliding scale like the one in the Panama Zone.

Religious Liberty in the Americas

A SHORT time ago those countries of South America, notably Peru, which still placed restrictions on worship granted religious liberty in full. It is now possible to worship freely and openly anywhere in North and South America, as far as the law is concerned. Local prejudice may sometimes interfere with dissenting rites and church establishment continues in some of the Latin republics, but the day of legal restraint on worship has passed.

What a far cry it is from this fortunate day of justice and enlightenment back to that stormy time when Madison, Jefferson and their conferees made Virginia the first State in the world with full religious freedom!

The Queen of Montenegro prefers France to Rome. Still, with King Nichols in the Eternal City, these exiles will be able to get all the news from their country that is worth printing, and more than they want.

Fair Treatment for All

ANNOUNCEMENT is made that the hearing on the woman suffrage referendum measure, which is to take place before the Privileges and Elections Committee of the House of Delegates on Monday afternoon, probably will be continued at an evening session. We assume that this is the program of some of those interested, rather than the deliberate purpose of the members of the committee.

As has been widely advertised and is well known, something in opposition to this legislation is to be had at the Jefferson auditorium on Monday evening, which will be addressed by a prominent speaker brought from another State. It is hardly likely that representatives of the people would lend themselves to a plan to decrease interest in this assembly or prevent the attendance of those whose duties and responsibilities as lawmakers should urge them to seek information on this vexed subject.

Germantown Armories Committee by Russians—Headline in New York World's special by Gustav C. Roeder. We do not find in the article that the Russians backed a woman nurse against a wall before daybreak and shot her.

Poetry's Strange Banits

JOHN MASEFIELD, famous English poet and novelist, is in this country on a lecture tour. This is not the first time he has set foot on American soil, for he lived here as a boy and drew inspiration from New York. He made his living as a bartender, and later as a baker and a sailor. Poetry has been born in queer places; a saloon might seem the strangest of all, yet Masefield's dreams grew apace as he passed drinks over the bar.

Was it because he earned his bread by unromantic toil that he developed into a poet? Is environment a cause of genius when it acts as a very irritant to imagination? Poets are rarely born in the purple surroundings of elegance and beauty, nor serve to stir the soul of romance, as we might expect them to do. They merely make commonplace citizens. Masefield, mixing drinks, Henley, the maligned laborer, laid up in a hospital; Walt Whitman, half a tramp, Keats, a drug clerk—of such is the kingdom of poesy.

Now a Chicago astronomer has discovered another moon for Jupiter. This makes eight. For a long time there were six, and two years ago two others were added. Jupiter may require a lot of these lumps, but this little old planet of ours has all the moonshine it needs in one, and in the mountain districts of Kentucky there is more than the law allows.

Wilson's Vindication

WISE policies are proved by large results, not by immediate appearances. The country is so accustomed to hearing the President's Mexican policy denounced by Roosevelt and other fire-eaters that it fails as yet to grasp the positive advantages resulting from our nonintervention in Mexico.

In fact, our government has been on trial in the Mexican crisis. Our policy has been followed with intense interest in Latin America, and, fortunately, it has been crowned with approval. It was necessary to convince the Latin republics of the good faith and disinterested intentions of the United States. This could only be done in Wilson's

way. The proof of the real success of the Mexican policy may be seen in the close tie of friendship which now for the first time binds all the American republics in a critical hour. Our entente with South America is Wilson's greatest achievement, and it stamps him as a statesman of the first rank.

Josephine Preston Peabody—Mrs. Lionel Marks, as some of us know her—corroborates a general impression that the vers librises—those who believe that poetry is not rhythmic—are stupid affectations. Anybody knows that a love poem or one like the "Star-Spangled Banner" can't be made of two or three words strung out in a line like a string of beads. If we know anything about it, vers libre is for the purpose of killing space at column rates.

Maryland's State Budget

MARYLAND is on the way to the adoption of a real budget system for State expenditures. The Economy and Efficiency Commission, appointed by Governor Harrington and headed by President Frank J. Goodnow of Johns Hopkins University, has recommended a budget plan, and the Democratic majority in the Legislature is pledged to give effect to this reform.

The measure approved by the Goodnow commission provides for a one-man budget, framed by the Governor. This, when submitted to the Legislature, must show the estimated revenues for the year it covers and the State's debts and assets, as well as the proposed expenditures. The Legislature may decrease, but in general may not increase, budget appropriations. Opportunity is to be allowed for the passage of supplementary appropriation bills by a three-fifths vote of the legislature, subject, of course, to the Governor's veto.

Obviously, this measure would place enormous power and corresponding responsibility in the hands of the Governor, and there is some objection to it on this ground. The critics of the one-man plan favor an arrangement like that under which the city of Baltimore operates. There the budget is framed by the Board of Estimates. As this board, however, is dominated by the Mayor, who is its chairman, and appoints two of the other four members, there would not seem to be any essential difference between the Baltimore method and that urged for Maryland.

In Baltimore the administrative budget is a demonstrated success. It permits the application of the city's revenues to works of needed public improvement, after current obligations have been met, in accord with the ripened judgment of those responsible for the way in which this money is to be spent. It unites the power and responsibility of appropriation with the duty of expenditure—and the plan works. Nobody in Baltimore, save the immediate beneficiaries of the old system, would consent to go back to direct appropriations by Council.

As Baltimore spends every year considerably more money than does the State of Maryland, besides contributing something over 70 per cent of the State taxes, voters are not much frightened by the bogosity of one-man power. To all intents and purposes, the Baltimore budget is framed by the Mayor, and there is not likely to be effective opposition to the plan to have the Maryland budget framed by the Governor.

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Time to Stand Up.

"That was a powerful speech you made on the subject of government manufacture of munitions," said the admiring constituent. "You stood manfully for the rights of the common people."

"You bet I did," said Congressman Hammatt. "You see, some of the uncommon people have arranged to get one of the munition plants for my district."

Society manners do not wash. Mahogany needs no veneer.

Just as Useful.

"Do you believe you can make a silk purse out of a sow's ear?"

"Not if you draw carefully and have luck, you can sometimes make a full house out of a lone pair."

They are still excitedly discussing the Godless Lynchings "down home." The Durham Herald says: "Any sheriff who permits a lynching in his county should be removed from office." He can show the scars of battle.

"What did you say that for? I told them we would be at home."

"Well, when we think we are going to Philadelphia we are alone, and that will make us feel at home."

Lucky Dogs.

The ancients were a lucky bunch.

As we all understand—

When they backed a racing bunch

They had some chance to land.

More About Macbeth and the Balkans.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir.—I have read with much interest the articles in your late issues by H. T. Fairhurst, on the Balkan War, regarding the heavy taxes, I would suggest that you have mentioned in your article that the tax levied on the twelfth chapter, First Kings, and taken off.

I am very much pleased to see that our representative from this district, Deane Hunley, has offered a bill to repeal the law pensioning judges, as he has served the years. We are overwhelmed with official orders, and you also, we hope, forgive all our typographical sins of omission and commission until we can master the gripe or it overcomes us."

Royal Nicknames.

Karl III. of Germany was the Fat King.

Rupert, on account of his straitened circumstances, was known as the Pinched King.

Friedrich II. of Germany was called the Wonder of the World.

Friedrich III. of the same country was called the Indolent King. He died from eating too much melon.

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Gossip From "Down Home"

"Kill or muzzle the dogs," says the Taylorsville Mountain Scout, "and raise sheep should be the motto of our mountain farmers."

If every county in North Carolina, says the Charlotte Gazette, had a farm demonstrator and a home-life school, our agricultural problems would soon be in a fair way to be solved.

Since the quiet law went into effect last April, says the North Wilkesboro Hustler, "only two money orders have been issued for Bipin by Postmaster J. T. McNeil. Prior to that time there were fifteen to thirty issued a month."

The Siler City Grit is responsible for this double-jointed story: "A still was found in the second story of a man's house last week in Wilson County, and the three hundred gallons of liquor he seemed to be initiating the distiller while still on the second floor of his house was raided last summer, only he had a brick furnace, which the Wilkesboro men found him one better with a large oil stove."

This story comes from the Elizabeth City independent. "Teeth of a shark in a fine state of preservation were taken from the bottom of the deep well which is being drilled by the Elizabeth City Water and Power Co. on the island of Elizabeth City. The teeth measured a depth of six feet when the teeth of the shark were found. The water from the well at this point was as salty as sea water."

There are some pecan ridges down in Johnston County, the Smithfield Herald says: "Mr. Neelton J. Allen of the Powhatan section, was in town Saturday. Mr. Allen raises hogs, corn, peaches, peach, many varieties, pecans and everything which can be raised on a farm in this section. He is away ready to bring some to market Saturday. He was advertising his peach and cleared up his ridges for the coming seed time, and then, too, the live stock was never in as good condition in this country as it is right now."

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SEEN ON THE SIDE

Always.

Love hurries in the morning,
When love and life are young,
When beauties rare, adoring
Her to whom songs are sung,
Entice the heart, suboring
Bold youth to dreams far-flung.

Love lingers in the gloaming
Of life, and hope, and dream,
When high hopes that went roaming
Have lost their radiant gleam;
Dream argosies, swift-homing,
Float, empty, in life's stream.

'Tis then that love is fairest—
Then, as life ebbs away—
Ambitions we held nearest
Have lost their luster and sway;
But love endures, my dearest,
In that yet perfect day.

The Pessimist Says:

It does seem a little bit strange that "a man of action" like Colonel Roosevelt never does anything nowadays but talk.

Shakespeare Day by Day.

For the man who has troubles: "Do not drop in for an after-loss."—Sonnet, xc.

For the loser: "The game is up"—Cymbeline, iii, 3.

For an attractive woman: "... For her own person it beggar'd all description."—Antony and Cleopatra, ii, 2.

Doubtful Affection.

"Does your teacher like you, Tommy?"—inquired the friend of the family.

"I guess so" replied the young hopeful. "She used to quarrel with me because I didn't know my lessons, but she says now that, for all she cares, I can stay in her class for the rest of her life."

Start of Some Proverbs.

"Waiting for dead men's shoes" refers to an old Hebrew custom that on the transfer of an inheritance the successor is to receive a shoe belonging to the former owner.

"To agree to differ" has its origin in Sir Philip Sidney's "Astoria," where no characters were agreed in any humor but in disagreeing.

Doubly Efficient.

"Everybody seems to regard Dr. Sileem as a very gifted and skillful surgeon."

"It is that. Why, he separated me from my appendix and my bank account by a single operation."

Here is a bit of wisdom for the sex we adore—and it is from a woman: "There is one special thing which no woman must ever hint to her husband, and that is that he has not done as well as she expected him to do."

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